Peter Skutches
Richard Gallen & Co.
260 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10001

5/4/95

Dear Peter,

Thanks for taking the time to commiserate over the index. Herman phoned me last week about it and I'm sure with genuine regret over it. Happened to me once so I know it can happen. The printer went to press with WWII without waiting for the index that was en route to him. But I do hope those six blank pages are what completed that sig rather than the index's length. Terribly small for such a book.

It happens that early this morning I wrote Herman, copy to Richard, telling him what I have in rough that there might be an interest in, a chapter I wrote out of sequence for what I've tentatively titled Mailer's Tales, with the subtitle Of the JFK Assassination. With all the Mailer hype now it could create a major publishing scandal, this one chapter. (Sorry about missing all those first letters. That problem was created on the last repair just before that company closed up so I cannot get it fixed.) I suppose you never saw what was eliminated from Case Open, but what I did to Posner in that is nothing to what I'm doing to Mailer in this. I've about 10 chapter done. I've a number of delicious quotes from Mailer. One is that in the JFK case the evidence is too "impenetrable" for him to use it. That is all I need to use what was cut from Case Open. I want to keep the printout I have so I'll try to get another to use. But with the past as prologue, Herman will have no interest in trying to place any article. I sent two for Case Open and got not even an acknowledgement.

If there is in publishing anyone who has cause not to love Mailer this book I'm doing, with the editing it will need, can give him both gratification and a successful and worthwhile book.

When I have enough copies- Herman promised me only 10- I've tentative arrangements made for press conference in DC, by others. Travel too dangerous for me. But I'll need books there for the media if it shows up. It is for that, as I may have written you, that I am anxious for the return of the pictures.

As I continue to get nice letters from Case Open, two more today, the advance indications I have is that NEVER AGAIN! should do well and has people anxious to get it. A friend who has been pestering a Borders store tells me they checked their computer and it shows they have 800 ordered. Oh how I regret not being able to travel! Mailer would not live long enough to forget it! Besides what I could do with this book!

If any review copies are sent out I'd like to know to whom so that I may perhaps have an indication of others I might approach and be prepared if I get any calls.

I've asked Herman if I can pay for copies of the index to be printed.

Many thanks. I do appreciate your concern. All the best,

Harold

UPS just delivered the 10 books and a xerox of the index. It tell me that it is longer than six pages and without reading it, it looks good. When I saw the breakdown under autopsy on the first page I felt good about it!

The cover looks good but as I suggested earlier, I think the subtitle on it would sell books. But I'm glad it is on the title page,

The pictures look good, too. I thumbed to see them,

Hasty calculation tells me that when the index is included on any reprint there will be a page for the list of my other books. If not it can be added at the end of the inded.

As I think the reaction to mere mention of this book in Case Open reflects, doing that is worthwhile.

The enclosed copy of my letter to Marina is in confidecne except, of course, for Riachard and Raphaela

Over the years she phones me from time to time. Several times last week.

Mailer's abuse of her is really unconscionable.

If any controversy develops she'll hold her end up.

Would you please ask Raphaela to send her a copy? Her address, and please do not give this out for she has a hard enough time over these things, is, and it seems strange but it is real, Mrs. Marina Porter, 1850 FM 550, Rockwall, TX 75087.

A little slip of paper saying it is at my request will assure her that you are asking nothing in return.

Although I believe she would be willing to help in any way she can.